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Reynolds & Son, Barre, Vermont

The Times' Daily Short Story.

TWO LIARS

(Original.)

"Remain here, captain," said the general, "until R's corps arrives. As soon as you see the head of the column turning the bend in the road below bring me word as fast as your horse will carry you."

We had drawn rein at the gateway of a large plantation, two pillars of stone, each surmounted by a lion, from which a long line of hedge extended in either direction almost as far as the eye could see. Within a winding road lined with tropical plants and rows of high shade trees extended to the house. I rode into the place and up to a broad veranda. A white-headed old negro came out of the front door and eyed me critically.

"I would like a lodging in this house for a time," I said to him. "For how long I don't know; not less than a few days and not more than a few weeks." The old man led me into a spacious room on the ground floor and said:

"Would you like a fulep, sah?" When he returned with it, I questioned him, and he told me that on our approach the family had departed and there was not a human being about the place except himself and me, for they had taken with them the few negroes who had remained loyal to them. Every day the man set before me the meager food the ample space for provisions contained and every night attended me to a chamber on the floor above, where I passed the night in a bed whose four high posts seemed to stand like sentinels to watch over my slumbers.

One night, not being able to sleep, I went into the corridor and, sitting on a window seat inclosed by curtains, spent an hour looking out on the moonlit grounds. I fell asleep. Waking suddenly, I heard a light footstep and the rustle of a dress on the staircase. What prompted me, whether an instinct for safety or of modesty, I know not, but I drew the curtains and peeped. The moonlight revealed the figure of a young girl descending from the floor above. Her face was oval, her hair raven, her eyes a lustrous black, in which even in the uncertain light I could detect anxiety, while the lines of her bust and limbs were exquisite curves. The figure as it passed my door paused and listened, then passed on softly to the floor below. I remained where I was for a few minutes and it returned, moving with the same caution, to the upper floor.

"Ethan," I said to the old negro the next morning, "are you sure there is no one in the house but yourself and me?"

"Sure nuff, sah. What mak' yo' ask?" He looked at me suspiciously.

"Have you ever heard that the house is haunted?"

"Now I come to think of it, sah, I have heard o' hants walkin' 'bout in de night. Have yo' seen any on 'em, sah?"

"I think I saw one last night. Have you ever heard of a lovely young girl haunting the house?"

"Fears to me, sah, I have heard 'bout dat."

"I saw her last night. I was tempted to see if she was a ghost by sending a bullet through her."

The old man looked troubled. "Dat ghost didn't never hurt nobody," he said. "Hain't no 'casion to shoot nor notten."

"I won't, Ethan, if I see her again. I'm not afraid of ghosts. Give me another cup of that substitute for coffee."

"Tain't berry fine, sah. De block-aders don't let us hab any real coffee in dese days. Don't shoot none o' de hants, sah. Dey won't hurt yo'."

That night I did not go to bed till past midnight. There was another walking of the ghost. This time she ran down the stairs, a terrible anxiety on every feature. I made up my mind that some one upstairs was very ill and she was going down for some needed article. When she came back I opened the curtains and met her face to face.

"All's lost!" she moaned.

"All's gained," I replied. "You people of the south have dreaded our coming so long that when we come you are in terror for your lives. Some one is ill. There is a regiment stationed at J., five miles from here. I can ride over and bring a surgeon."

She stood irresolute for a moment, then said:

"Yes, it is better that he should be taken than that he should die. My brother, an officer of the Confederate army, is lying upstairs wounded, and we fear he is dying."

There was a satisfaction in the ride I took that moonlight night, bringing a surgeon back with me to treat an enemy. By the time I returned the family were not only reconciled to trust me, but eagerly awaiting the man I brought. When we entered the sick room, there stood a mother and sister by the bedside of the invalid. The surgeon could not have been more tender with the most beloved of his comrades than he was with the Confederate, remaining with him till morning and coming every day for a week, when he pronounced him out of danger.

"Ethan," I said one day after the secret was out, "are there any more ghosts in the house?"

"Fo' de Lawd, mars'r, I've berry much mo'tified 'bout dat what I tole yo'. Missis and Missy Florence reckoned yo' Yankees 'd kill Mars'r Howard 's soon as yo' sot eyes on him."

"Ethan," I replied, "you told me big 'bout de 'hants'."

When General R's troops arrived, I rode out to the general and told him that there was a case of yellow fever in the house and he had better put a guard about it till the men had passed in order to be sure no one became infected. Then I rode on to report his arrival to my general, muttering:

"You're a bigger liar than de darky."

AMBROSE SPENCER.

BOMBARDING PANAMA.

Colombian War Ship Attacks Seat of Isthmian Revolt.

UNITED STATES PROTESTS.

If Firing Is Not Stopped American Fleet Will Probably Seize Government's Vessels—Preparing For Big Naval Demonstration.

Washington, Nov. 5.—Vice United States Consul Ehrman, at Panama, cables the state department that the Colombian government war ship Bogota is shelling that city, where the independence of the isthmus has been proclaimed. Eleven Chinamen have been killed. Vice Consul Ehrman has been instructed to protest against the bombardment.

If the consul's protest is not sufficient, then the commander of the United States steamer Boston, which is by this time on her way to Panama from San Juan del Sur, 600 miles distant, will promptly seize the Colombian gunboat, if necessary to stop the bombardment.

This bombardment is in violation of all the rules of war, beginning, as it did, without the required notice. Moreover, the United States government takes the ground that it certainly interferes with the freedom of transit across the isthmus, which this government is by treaty bound to maintain.

The greatest activity is exhibited in the state and navy departments, and there were frequent consultations between the officials, the naval officers particularly being intent on working out the details for the plan of the protection of the isthmian traffic outlined by the state department.

Preparing For Big Demonstration.

It is quite evident that the navy is making preparations for a larger demonstration in isthmian waters than it has made for many years, and the fact is not disguised that all of the information that has come from the secret agents of the government point to the ultimate success of the revolution. But meanwhile extremely delicate questions are to be answered, for the occupation of one end of the Panama railroad by the government force and of the other end by the revolutionists makes the situation extremely complicated. That is one reason the conferences are being held and why it is desirable that the most exact instructions possible under the circumstances shall be sent to our naval commanders and to the consular officers on the isthmus to prevent them from making any false move that would place the United States government in a position of violating treaty stipulations or displaying power in derogation of Colombia's just rights.

"You will protect American interests at all points and do everything possible to avoid bloodshed," is the substance of the instructions cabled by the navy department at the instance of the state department to the naval commanders now at the isthmus or on their way. The last part of the instructions is particularly significant, for it forecasts a more active interposition by the United States government in the troubles on the isthmus than has perhaps ever before been displayed.

Will Probably Land Marines.

These orders were the result of the conferences at the White House between the president, Secretary Hay and Assistant Secretary Loomis, Acting Secretary of the Navy Darling and Rear Admiral Taylor, chief of the bureau of navigation. So it is not doubted that under the authority thus conveyed the United States naval commanders will land marines and sailors at the railroad terminal. Indeed, it is not doubted Commander John Hubbard of the Nashville has already placed a marine guard ashore at Colon to protect the railroad property, and the commander of the Boston probably will take the same action when he arrives at Panama.

The United States government has received a cablegram from Panama requesting that it recognize the new government. The officials here are as yet in ignorance as to what the new government consists of and have taken no action on the request.

The cause of the revolution may be

briefly summed up as being the result of the action of congress of Colombia at Bogota in rejecting the Hay-Herran canal treaty. The Panamanians are almost to a man in favor of the construction of the canal by the United States, and it had repeatedly been prophesied before and after the meeting of congress that Panama would secede if the treaty was rejected and would probably come to terms with the United States for the building of the great isthmian waterway.

Nero Ordered to Panama.

San Diego, Cal., Nov. 5.—Captain Shurtlett of the United States collier Nero, which arrived here from Philadelphia a week ago and which was waiting for the arrival of the Pacific fleet to discharge her 3,400 tons of coal, has received orders to go to Panama. It is supposed that the Pacific fleet, now at Acapulco, has also been ordered there, and the Nero will coal these vessels there.

SIXTEEN KILLED.

Government Powder Depot at Iona Island, New York, Blows Up.

Peekskill, N. Y., Nov. 5.—Sixteen men are reported dead and a number wounded as a result of a series of explosions on Iona Island, in the Hudson, used by the government as a storehouse for dynamite and powder. The first explosion was followed by others for more than an hour, the detonations being heard in this city.

A telephone call was sent here for every physician available, and all who could be found responded to the call. Beyond the fact that sixteen men were dead and many wounded no details of the disaster were obtainable.

Steel Workers Laid Off.

Philadelphia, Nov. 5.—Four hundred workmen in the Bloom mill and the iron and steel finishing departments of the Penney Iron works have been laid off, making a total of nearly 2,000 men rendered idle by the gradual closing of the big plants. The eight inch steel mill will be closed on Saturday, which will complete the shutdown of the establishment.

Condition of W. L. Elkins.

Philadelphia, Nov. 5.—The condition of W. L. Elkins is reported no worse. He is said to be in no immediate danger of death.

A Pennsylvania Postmaster.

Washington, Nov. 5.—Edward H. Williams has been appointed fourth class postmaster at Blue Flats, Pa.

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If you will only take Romoc you will be surprised how quickly your rheumatic pains will leave you. Romoc gets right to work and purifies the blood. It strengthens everyone of the vital organs of the body so that the poisonous secretions that cause Rheumatism are quickly dispelled. It tones up the stomach and creates a healthy appetite so that new blood, free from the deadly uric acid that causes Rheumatism, is the result. One of the greatest reasons of Romoc's popularity and the good it accomplishes is due to the fact that it contains no harmful tissue-de-



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Powers Indorse Macedonian Plan.

Constantinople, Nov. 5.—The British, German, French and Italian ambassadors visited the porte and notified the Turkish officials that they were in receipt of instructions from their respective governments to support the Austro-Russian reform scheme. The porte strongly objects to the control feature of the reforms. Orders have been issued for the disbandment of ninety-six battalions of reserves.

Many Hurt in Trolley Wreck.

Danville, Ill., Nov. 5.—Conductor Lewis Lashley was killed and a dozen passengers were injured in a wreck on the Danville-Urbana-Champaign Interurban line at Vermillion Heights. The car jumped the track while rounding a sharp curve, and Lashley was caught in the wreckage and crushed to death. None of the injured will die.

Venezuelan Arbitration Resumed.

The Hague, Nov. 5.—After the interval of a month the Venezuelan arbitration has been resumed here. The president of the tribunal, M. Muraviev, the Russian minister of justice, asked counsel to confine themselves to the material points of the controversy and announced that the tribunal would sit from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily. By general consent the counter case of Venezuela, which United States Minister Bowen through an oversight failed to deposit in time, was admitted and the arguments commenced.

Cody Sails His Kite Boat.

Calais, France, Nov. 5.—S. F. Cody, who on Oct. 30 made an unsuccessful attempt to cross the channel from Dover to Calais in a collapsible boat drawn by a kite, has started on another attempt to perform the feat.

Great Closing-Out Sale!

—AT THE—

CITY AUCTION ROOMS.

As I am about to remodel my Auction building, making it into a large hall, I am obliged to close out the stock within ten days from this date.

Sale Begins Friday Afternoon, Nov. 6th

And Continues Every Afternoon and Evening at 2 and 7 o'clock.

All the goods positively must go without delay and without postponement. In this large and varied stock are four Chamber Suites, fifty Bedsteads, ten Commodes, fifty Spring Beds, forty Mattresses, thirty Pillows, four Folding Beds (one costing \$70), six Dining Tables, nine small Tables, four Sofas, six Couches, one organ, six Sewing-machines,

Ten Carpets, Fifteen Easy Chairs, Five Ranges,

twenty-five Rockers, thirty Coal Heaters, ten Oil and Gasoline Stoves, one Cooley Creamer, one Milk Heater, one Counter, pair Blacksmith's Bellows, several Guns, one Washing-machine, Wringers, lot of Silverware, Crockery and Ironware, 100 pairs Men's and Women's Shoes, Clothing, etc., and many smaller articles, too numerous to mention.

Parties Going to Housekeeping Should Not Miss This Sale!

We shall arrange for plenty of room for ladies and, with extra help, will be prepared to transact business rapidly. Sale begins Friday at 2 P. M., and will continue every afternoon and evening at 2 and 7 o'clock. Remember that this is business. In ten days after this sale opens the building must be vacated. Don't miss this opportunity.

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